

## **Volunteer Lake Monitoring in the Border Region of Estonia, Latvia, and Russia**

The objective of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring training was to work with personnel in the border region of Estonia, Latvia, and Russia to develop volunteer lake monitoring programs that can provide information about water quality problems and promote a sense of stewardship. In June of 2001, U.S. EPA Region 5 and Illinois EPA presented the first of two Volunteer Lake Monitoring workshops in Latvia. We held a follow-up workshop in September. The participants, from Latvia, Estonia, Russian and Lithuania, included governmental officials, environmental experts and high school principals and teachers. The first workshop focused on training participants to monitor lakes and how to train others. We also emphasized the importance of incorporating Quality Assurance/Quality Control into the monitoring program. To place data in context, the second workshop included an overview of limnology and ways to teach limnology to students. Additionally, we discussed how to establish volunteer networks; how to recruit and train volunteers; and how to manage data effectively. The second workshop also provided us with an opportunity to discuss progress the participants made over the summer to start volunteer programs and review the procedures used for lake monitoring.

Our presentation will give an overview of the workshops but will focus on developing similar international environmental workshops. We will discuss problems we encountered developing and presenting our workshops, and we will suggest ways to overcome barriers (such as language, culture, etc) to effectively transfer capacity internationally.

### **Amy Walkenbach**

Amy Walkenbach received a B.S. and M.S. from Eastern Illinois in Botany. She joined the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in 1987 working in the Ecotoxicology lab. Amy became the statewide coordinator of the Illinois Lake Monitoring Program, one of the oldest such programs in the nation, in 1989. In 2000, Amy became the Bureau of Water's Lake Unit Manager overseeing not only the volunteer program but the ambient monitoring program, 305(b) water quality report development, and various implementation and education programs.

### **Sarah Lehmann**

Sarah Lehmann works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's. Sarah has been with the Regional water program for 3 years working with state and tribal water quality monitoring and assessment programs, and nonpoint source programs. She also acted as the regional volunteer monitoring coordinator. Prior to coming to Region 5, Sarah worked for U.S. EPA's Office of Water for 4 years. Sarah has a M.A. in Political Science from The American University in Washington, D.C., and a B.A. in German, and Politics and Government from Ripon College in Wisconsin.